

STATINTL

CRITIC FINDS JOHNSON HAS WAR BACKING

Fulbright Warns Reds
U.S. Dissent Won't
Lead To Peace

Washington, Aug. 13 (AP) — Senator Fulbright (D., Ark.) said today Hanoi and Peking are mistaken if they are refusing to negotiate an end to the Vietnam war out of a belief that President Johnson is isolated in his policy and will have to back down sooner or later.

"I don't believe the President is isolated. The Congress is more warlike than he is," commented Fulbright, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and a leading spokesman of congressional opponents of Mr. Johnson's war policies.

Some Administration officials are reported to feel vocal opposition to the war among congressional doves has given Hanoi and Peking the impression the President has so little support for his policy that he will ultimately have to retreat.

Opposition A Factor

And this, they are said to feel, is a factor in the Communists' refusal to come to the bargaining table despite the increased tempo and power of United States military activity in Vietnam.

Fulbright said that if the Communists hold the view that the President stands virtually alone in his tough policy, they are mistaken.

He recalled that the Administration has won by substantial margins every congressional vote on legislation dealing with the war.

"The President," the Arkansas Democrat said, "has the power to take us into World War III if he wants to," Fulbright said.

Contact Offered

Meanwhile, *Newsweek* magazine quoted Fulbright as saying he is prepared to contact the Russians to tell them they are mistaken if they expect the United States commitment in Vietnam to be withdrawn as the result of political opposition.

"If I thought the President wanted me to do this," Fulbright was quoted, "I should be glad to — provided I am satisfied we are seeking a peaceful settlement rather than a military victory."

Fulbright called an open hearing of his committee for Wednesday to deal with the United States Information Agency's activities in news coverage of the Vietnam war. Leonard H. Marks, USIA director, was scheduled as the chief witness.

Fares Reported Paid

Fulbright said in a letter to Marks dated August 11 that the hearing was stimulated by news reports the information agency had paid the fare for 27 foreign newsmen to visit Vietnam.

The report, in the *Washington Post*, said the agency's aim was to achieve "more objective" foreign reporting of the war, combat editorial hostility and focus more attention on aid aspects of the conflict.

Three of the newsmen were reported to be Canadian with most of the others from Africa and the Middle East.

Fulbright said in his letter that he sees no reason for the activity being secret and added for committee wants to know more about it.

But he said he does not think "our discussions" would be confined to that issue and added:

"On the contrary, I believe the larger picture of news coverage vis-a-vis the Vietnam problem, and specifically the role of the information agency in that sphere, might be explored."

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